

## Curriculum Vitae

### PERSONAL DATA

**Name:** Thomas Donald Jacobs  
**Address:** Veldstraat 1 bus 4  
B-9300 Aalst  
Belgium  
**Mobile phone:** +32 477 17 92 64  
**E-mail:** [thomasdonald.jacobs@ugent.be](mailto:thomasdonald.jacobs@ugent.be)  
**Date of Birth:** August 31, 1979  
**Place of Birth:** Ft. Wayne, Indiana  
**Nationality:** Dual U.S. and Belgian Citizen

### EDUCATION

**2010-2011**      **Master's in History**      **Ghent University, Ghent**

---

**MASTER'S:** *Charles V and the Portuguese New Christians.*

**RESEARCH:** The policies adopted by Charles V towards Portuguese New Christians in Antwerp within an international context.

*Graduated with greatest distinction.*

**2006-2010**      **Bachelor's in History**      **Ghent University, Ghent**

---

**FINAL PAPER:** *Governmental Policies Regarding the Portuguese New Christians of Antwerp During the 16th and 17th Centuries.*

**RESEARCH:** A review of the scientific literature regarding the Portuguese New Christians residing in Antwerp and their treatment by the authorities.

**MINOR:** Arts Science

*Graduated with great distinction.*

### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

**2016-Present:**      **Assistant, 100%, Ghent University, History Department**

- Assisting in IHO. Assisting first year bachelor students with developing basic skills as researchers and writers. During class when required, but primarily working on extra class aides such as the heuristics website, and the style guide. One semester. Academic years: 2017-present.
- Teaching (under the supervision of Isabelle Devos) Historische Praktijk II sub-course, "Early Modern English Political and Diplomatic Culture," using iconography, and published and archival texts to explore what these sources tell us about early modern political and diplomatic culture using María Eugenia Vázquez Semadeni's broad definition of political culture as "the set of discourses and symbolic practices by means of which both individuals and groups articulate their relationship to power, elaborate their political demands and put them at stake" (Vázquez Semadeni, 2010). Class for second-year bachelor students with seminars dealing with various themes relating to primary sources and historical literature relating to England and its colonies. Grounded and structured analysis, academic writing and presentation skills are emphasized. Selected students are encouraged to participate in an international conference with the submission of a poster,

and receive additional coaching. Additional work on an English research and writing guide aimed specifically at Dutch-speaking history students. Two semesters. Academic years: in planning for 2017-2018.

- Teaching (under the supervision of René Vermeir) Historische Teksten sub-course, “English Historical Texts.” Introducing first year bachelor students to reading and analysing English historical sources by subject and genre, ranging from the late medieval to the mid-18th century. One semester. Academic years: 2017-present.
- Miscellaneous tasks include running the Institute for Early Modern History website, sourcing and ordering books covering various aspects of early modern history, and co-running the history department’s page on Facebook. Performing small translation and editing tasks for members of the department. As well as advising third year bachelor students and master’s students upon request, reading bachelor papers and master’s theses upon request, and writing student recommendation letters upon request. Academic years: 2017–present.
- Research for a doctoral thesis on the topic of English Interregnum diplomacy, with a particular focus on the intersection of diplomatic culture, ceremonial and protocols, and the contestation of legitimacy. The maintenance of a research blog constitutes part of this project, see: ‘Researching Early Modern History. A Blog for Professionals and Students,’ at <https://earlymodern.blog>.

**2012-2016: Teaching Assistant, 50%, Ghent University, History Department**

- Assisting in Historische Praktijk I/IHO. Assisting first year bachelor students with developing basic skills as researchers and writers. During class when required, but primarily working on extra class aides such as the heuristics website, and the style guide. One semester. Academic years: 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-2017.
- Teaching (under the supervision of Anne-Laure Van Bruaene, Isabelle Devos) Historische Praktijk II sub-course, “Early Modern European Discourses on the Americas,” using published texts to explore what these sources tell us not about the Americas or the Indigenous population, but about Europeans. Class for second-year bachelor students with seminars dealing with various discursive themes and intellectual movements relating to primary sources and historical literature on the Americas. Academic writing and presentation skills are emphasized. Selected students are encouraged to participate in an international conference with the submission of a poster, and receive additional coaching. Additional work on an English research and writing guide aimed specifically at Dutch-speaking history students. Two semesters. Academic years: 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16.
- Teaching (under the supervision of René Vermeir, Klaas van Gelder) Historische Teksten sub-course, “English Historical Texts.” Introducing first year bachelor students to reading and analysing English historical sources by subject and genre, ranging from the late medieval to the modern. One semester. Academic years: 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-2017.
- Miscellaneous tasks include running the Institute for Early Modern History website, sourcing and ordering books covering various aspects of early modern history, and running the history department’s page on Facebook. Performing small translation and editing tasks for members of the department. As well as advising third year bachelor students and master’s students upon request, reading bachelor papers and master’s theses upon request, and writing student recommendation letters upon request. Academic years: 2012–2017.

**2009-2016: Editor and Translator, Freelance 50%**

- Editing and translating academic articles, chapters and volumes for publication, editing and translating project proposals for submission to various funding bodies, as well as preparing doctoral dissertations for defence. Specialization in historical and anthropological subjects. Also has commercial editing and translating experience. Editing in English. Translation language pairs: Dutch to English, French to English, Spanish to English.

#### **A Selection of Recently Translated/Edited Articles and Chapters:**

Dumolyn, Jan and Jelle Haemers. "Evil Wednesday and Good Friday: Urban political conflict and liturgical time in the late medieval Low Countries." (In preparation).

Roelans, Jonas. "From slurs to silence? Sodomy and mendicants in the writings of Catholic laymen in early modern Ghent." *The Sixteenth Century Journal*, 46, nr. 3 (2015): 629-49.

Trachet, Jan, Ward Leloup, Kristof Dombrecht, Samuël Delefortrie, Jan Dumolyn, Erik Thoen, Marc Van Meirvenne and Wim De Clercq. "Modelling Monnikerede. The topographical reconstruction of a deserted medieval outpost near Bruges." (Submitted for publication).

Van Gelder, Klaas. "The Estates of Flanders manning the barricades for territorial integrity. The protest against the Barrier Treaty of 1715." In *Intermediate institutions in the County of Flanders in the late middle ages and the early modern era*, edited by Georges Martyn, René Vermeir and Chantal Vancoppenolle, 115-139. Brussels: Algemeen Rijksarchief, 2012.

Vermeir, René. "How Spanish were the Spanish Netherlands?" *Dutch Crossing - Journal of Low Country Studies*, 36, nr. 1 (2012): 19-34.

#### **Edited Doctoral Theses:**

Al Asmar, Malik. "Western capitalism in crisis, an Islamic alternative? Comparison, critique and suggestions for change." PhD diss., Ghent University, 2011.

Houtteman, Yvan. "Living in the Navel of Waag. Ritual traditions among the Dassanech of south west Ethiopia." PhD diss., Ghent University, 2011.

Vanmassenhove, Henri. "The anthropology of Hermann Lotze (1817-1881). A comparative approach." PhD diss., Ghent University, 2011.

#### **Translated and Edited Books**

Van Gelder, Klaas. *Regime change at a distance. Austria and the Southern Netherlands following the War of the Spanish Succession (1716-1752)*. Brussels: Verhandelingen van de Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor wetenschappen en kunsten: Nieuwe reeks 29, 2016.

#### **Conferences and Publications**

- American Indian Workshop, Prague, March of 2010: "Judaism, anthropophagy and Native Americans in colonial discourse. Cannibalism and the internalized other."
- American Indian Workshop, Zurich, April of 2012: "They gave us syphilis'. (Mis) Representing Native American history in the classroom."
- American Indian Workshop, Helsinki, May of 2013: "The material and immaterial in early modern representations of Native Americans: A case study."
- American Indian Workshop, Leiden, May of 2014: "'Semah Israel, Adonai Elohenu Adonai Ehad': The role of language in the Indians-as-Jews theory."

- Jacobs, T. "'They gave us syphilis'. (Mis) Representing Native American history in the classroom." *Ethnoscripts* 15, no. 1 (2013): 62-85. (Edition Presentations and Representations of Native American Indigeneity, edited by Sabine Lang and Andrea Blätter).
- Roobaerts, Edmund and T. Jacobs. "An uncelebrated patron of Brussels artists: St Gorik's Confraternity of Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows (1499-1516)." In *The Seven Sorrows Confraternity of Brussels. Drama, ceremony, and art patronage (16th-17th centuries)*, edited by Emily S. Thelen, 92-112. Turnhout: Brepols, 2015.

### Conference Projects and Papers in Preparation

- Organizer of the American Indian Workshop in Gent in 2018: "Arrows of time: narrating the past and present." This four-day, international conference will involve two keynote speakers, thirty paper presentations, poster presentations, and joint events coordinated with Ghent University's Ethnographic Museum. The AIW is the largest, longest running conference held in Europe in the field of Native Studies, drawing international scholars from a wide variety of disciplines.
- "Locating and leaving the Lost Tribes: The politics of identity in the readmission of the Jews to England." While scholars such as Richard Cogley have discussed mid seventeenth-century philo-Semitism and the search for the Lost Tribes of Israel, their purported association with Native Americans via the usage of particular, negative identity markers has been overlooked. This article seeks to uncover the evolution in the writings of Menasseh ben Israel, the prime proponent of the official readmission of the Jews to England, with regard to these identity markers and the public debate. Research for this article has largely been completed, and the article is planned for submission to an A1 journal within the next six months.
- "The "coronations" of Oliver Cromwell." While there has been some recent interest in the courtly aspects of Cromwell's regime, research into ceremonial under the Commonwealth and Protectorate remains to be conducted. In particular, how this was employed with regard to foreign embassies, and how they responded in turn. Sources include contemporary English accounts, iconographic materials, and diplomatic accounts. This research is in an initial stage, but an article is planned for submission to an A1 journal within the next six months.

### Language Skills

- fluent English reading/writing/speaking
- excellent Dutch reading/writing/speaking
- fair French/Spanish reading/textual translating
- passable Portuguese/Italian reading/textual translating

### Computer Skills/Tech Interests

- proficient in social media
- experience using Drupal
- proficient in Microsoft Word and Power Point
- helped to design and now manages a bibliographical academic database
- familiar with and proficient in using a wide variety of search engines and databanks in conducting research
- produced web tutorials for students showing them how to use various databanks and search engines
- particular interest in the dissemination of both research results and research experiences through special social media formats such as blogs

### Hobbies

- reading classical English literature, contemporary fiction, science-fiction, graphic novels, works on

epigenetics, big history

- following U.S. politics
- cooking and baking
- singing and playing the violin
- board and card games